

Responsiveness to Instruction (RtI)

Overview

What is Responsiveness to Instruction (RtI)?

The practice of providing high quality instruction/interventions matched to student needs and using learning rate over time and level of performance to make important educational decisions.

Responsiveness to Instruction (RtI) is:

- A focus on intervention
- A focus on solution
- A focus on addressing the needs of all students having difficulty
- A focus on positive outcomes for all students
- A focus on all educators being responsible for all children

RtI allows for early intervention and identification by providing a graduated series of increasingly intense intervention guided by data based decision-making.

Fundamental Principles of RtI

- High Quality Instruction
- Frequent Assessment
- Data-based Decision Making

Assessment

Assessment in RtI focuses on achievement, behavior, and the instructional environment:

- These things are measurable and changeable
- Related to student outcomes
- Allow for in depth analysis of performance relative to peers
- Intervention is aimed at improving rate and level of skill development

Focusing only on the child, as in the traditional methods, leads to missing extremely important factors. Some students that previously would have been identified as LD are merely “instructional causalities”:

- Not exposed to early literacy skills
- Given marginally effective general education
- Exposed to instruction that had not been scientifically validated
- Instruction was implemented with poor integrity

Changes in mind-set

- Changes in mind-set that are necessary for all of those involved:
 - Student problems can be defined and changed
 - Questions drive assessments
 - Enabled learning rather than discrepancy or diagnosis is the goal
 - Intervention is derived from analysis of baseline data

What RtI Is and What It is Not

RtI IS...

An initiative that supports general education school improvement goals

Intended to help as many students as possible meet proficiency standards without special education

A method to unify general and special education in order to benefit students through greater continuity of services

Focused primarily on effective instruction to enhance student growth

RtI IS NOT

A stand alone special education initiative

A means for just getting more student into special education

A method for just increasing or decreasing special education numbers

Focused primarily on disability determination and documented through a checklist